Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03
H-02 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 ITC-01 /123 W
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R 261527Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 14512

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC SUBJ: EC COMMISSION PI

SUBJ: EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO MODIFY PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE COVERING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 13362; (B) STATE 171160

1. THE EC COMMISSION HAS SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL WHICH WOULD MODIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE PROPOSAL WOULD AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION (THROUGH ITS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' PROCEDURES) TO AMEND THE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE AFFECTING ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SUBJECT TO A CAP. IF APPROVED, THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE BLANKET AUTHORITY TO AMEND THE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE AT ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCRETION WITHOUT SEEKING COUNCIL APPROVAL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO RECLASSIFY POULTRY PARTS (REFTELS) WOULD FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW PROCEDURE. UNDER THE EXISTING PROCEDURE, COUNCIL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED TO AMEND THE TARIFF NOMENCLATURE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, EACH BASIC REGULATION COVERING CAP COMMODITIES AFFECTED BY SUCH AN AMENDMENT.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THIS "TECHNICAL" MEASURE IS BEING INTRODUCED TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES MORE RAPIDLY (SUCH AS THE POULTRY PART RECLASSIFICATION EXAMPLE, ABOVE) WITHOUT DRAFTING NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL REGULATIONS EACH TIME A CHANGE IS NEEDED. THEY ALSO SAY THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL LIKELY BE APPROVED IN THE FALL. HINTON

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